

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJ: LABOR DAY (MAY 1) CELEBRATIONS PLANNED

1. THE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR UNIONS OF THAILAND (CLUT) HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A LABOR DAY CEREMONY THAT WILL INCLUDE A PARADE, SPEECHES, DANCES, ATHLETIC CONTESTS, AS WELL AS A PROPOSED VISIT FROM THE NEW PRIME MINISTER. THE CEREMONY IS TO BE HELD AT LUMPINI PARK NEAR THE DUSIT THANI HOTEL, SCENE OF LABOR UNREST DURING LAST YEAR'S CELEBRATION AND SOME DISTANCE FROM SANAM LUANG, THE FAVORITE SPOT FOR STUDENT-SPONSORED RALLIES.

2. THE DAY WILL BEGIN WITH A PARADE OF WORKERS BEGINNING AT THE ERAWAN HOTEL. CLUT ORGANIZERS EXPECT FORTY THOUSAND WORKERS FROM BANGKOK AND VICINITY TO PARTICIPATE. ONCE ASSEMBLED IN LUMPINI PARK, WORKERS WILL LISTEN TO SPEECHES BY UNION AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS CONCERNING THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORKING MAN. THE AFTERNOON WILL BE MARKED BY THAI DANCING, ATHLETIC EVENTS AND MORE SPEECHES. CLUT LEADERS HOPE TO OBTAIN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND BAHT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO

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STAGE THE EVENT. THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED

TO PROVIDE THAT AMOUNT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ORGANIZERS OF THE LABOR DAY CELEBRATION PLAN A DAY OF DISCUSSION AND RELAXATION, BUSINESSMEN AND SOME LABOR LEADERS FEAR A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR WHEN MAY 1 MARKED THE BEGINNING OF SEVERAL DISRUPTIVE LABOR DISPUTES. DURING THE PAST YEAR, MODERATE LEADERSHIP HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE STATE ENTERPRISE UNIONS AND SOME OF THE LARGER PRIVATE INDUSTRY UNIONS. HOWEVER, THE LEFTIST LABOR AND STUDENT AGITATORS, ACTIVE AMONG THE SMALLER PLANTS IN AND AROUND BANGKOK, ARE UNLIKELY TO ALLOW LABOR/MAY DAY TO PASS UNNOTICED.
WHITEHOUSE

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